

REMARKS

By this response, Claims 1, 3, and 8 have been amended and Claim 7 canceled, leaving Claims 1, 3—6 and 8—9 pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the remarks contained herein.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 has been amended to correct its dependency. Withdrawal of the objection to Claim 3 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Independent Claims 1 and 8 and dependent Claim 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huschle, Jr. (U.S. 1,158,223) or Odagaki et al. (U.S. 5,269,581) or Nishide (US 20010002759 A1), and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jach et al. (U.S. 6,705,658 B2). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the four cited references disclose both the rear and front legs being coupled to the vehicle floor rearward of the tank as claimed by Applicants in Claims 1 and 8. Claims 1 and its dependent Claim 6, and 8 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huschle or Odagaki et al. or Nishide. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1. Therefore, without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claim 3 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 9 depends from Claim 8. Therefore, without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claim 9 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 8.

Claims 4, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huschle, Jr. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

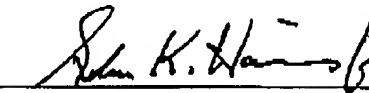
Claims 4, 5 and 7 depend from Claim 1. therefore, without conceding the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 4, 5 and 7 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to Claim 1.

Claims 1, 3—6 and 8—9 are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested. If personal contact will expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 4, 2006

By:



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